

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are all the claims pending in the application. New claims 16 and 17 are added.

In section 4 on pages 2-4, the Office Action rejects claims 1-6 and 8-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,748,214 to Usui et al. (hereinafter "Usui"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, "a plurality of peripheral recesses arranged along a whole periphery of the plurality of cavity recesses." Claim 8 contains a similar recitation. In Usui, on the contrary, dummy pressure producing chambers 71 are located merely at both ends of a reservoir chamber 55 such that they sandwich a plurality of pressure producing chambers 51 that are arranged in line. See FIG. 13; column 10, lines 60-66; and column 11, lines 17-19. Thus, claims 1 and 8 and Usui clearly differ in how the peripheral recesses are arranged.

The Office Action appears to treat the dummy pressure producing chambers 71 shown in FIG. 12(B) and FIG. 13 of Usui as equivalent to the peripheral recesses recited in claims 1 and 8. However the recitation of "a whole periphery" in claims 1 and 8 does not correspond to this disclosure in Usui.

Claim 1 also recites that the peripheral recess has no communication with the nozzle and the common ink chamber. In Usui, on the contrary, the dummy pressure producing chamber 71 communicates with a nozzle 79 and a reservoir chamber 55 (acting as a common ink chamber). This communication is clearly shown in FIG. 12(B). Thus, claim 1 and Usui are further distinctly different in this regard.

Claims 2-6 and 9-14 are allowable based at least on their dependence from claims 1 and 8, respectively, for at least the reasons stated above in connection with claims 1 and 8.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1-6 and 8-14 as being anticipated by Usui be withdrawn.

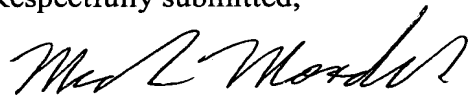
In section 5 on page 4, the Office Action indicates that claims 7 and 15 are allowable.

New claims 16 and 17 are allowable based at least on their dependence from claim 1 and 8, respectively, for at least the reasons stated above in connection with the rejection of claims 1 and 8.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-17 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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